

Submitter:

Nancy Orr

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2251

Dear Chair Frederick and Members of the Committee:

Please support HB2251A with a DO PASS recommendation. My observation of my grandchildren grounds my belief that cellphone-free schools in Oregon will help lift us out of our disastrous reading and math scores and lagging graduation rates. When their cell phone time is limited to an hour a day, the kids I know are more cheerful, more talkative and more curious about the world around them. Having phones available in a pocket during class is, for most, a constant distraction.

I have also visited their schools during lunch and was appalled to see mostly silent students mindlessly eating while on their phones. What a contrast from my and their parents' experience, visiting with friends amid the din of an active, social school community. It is way past time to engage the young students who missed so much social community during the Covid lockdown and now continue to retreat into communicating through texting and social media "likes" rather than conversing with one another.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nancy Orr
Portland